

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-29. Claims 1-12 and 18-29 presently stand rejected. Claims 13-17 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 13 and 24-26 have been amended. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

*Claim objections*

In the March 18, 2003 Office Action, claim 13 is objected to because of informalities. The Applicants have amended claim 13 to cure these informalities. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claim 13 be withdrawn.

*35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections*

In the March 18, 2003 Office Action, claims 1-5, 10, 18-20 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weber et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,084,992. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber. Claims 11-12, 21-22 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber and Legali et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,222,955.

Claim 1 as presently amended expressly recites “an optical beam is to be optically coupled to the first input and to the first and second outputs through the first MMI coupling device.” Thus, the presently amended claim 1 expressly recites an optical beam. The expressly recited optical beam to be optically coupled to the first input and to the first and second outputs through the first MMI coupling device.

Weber is directed to the routing of optical signals. Weber discloses “that the multichannel input signal, i.e. a signal comprising N wavelengths, is separated in such a way that each wavelength goes to a different output.” (col. 5, lines 51-54). Weber discloses a routing device and a demultiplexer. (col. 5, lines 12-15 and col. 6, lines 45-46). However, Weber fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest “an optical beam is to be optically coupled to the first input and to the first and second outputs through the first MMI coupling device” as expressly claimed in the Applicants’ invention.

Legali is directed to an integrated optical switch. Legali discloses a switch to route an optical beam at an input port to a selected output port. (col. 1, lines 66-67 to col. 2, line 1). However, Legali fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest “an optical beam is to be optically coupled to the first input and to the first and second outputs through the first MMI coupling device” as expressly claimed in the Applicants’ invention.

Accordingly, both Weber and Legali, whether taken singularly or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or fairly suggest at least one or more expressly recited elements of the Applicants’ presently claimed invention. Thus, the present invention as expressly claimed would not be anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references. Independent claims 18 and 24 distinguish for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-12, 19-23 and 25-29 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their respective independent base claims in addition to adding further limitations of their own.

### *Conclusion*

The Applicants respectfully request that the claim objections and the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections be withdrawn and submit that the present application is in condition for

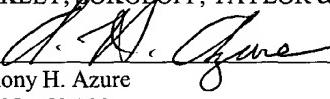
allowance. The Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at (206)-292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

*Charge Deposit Account*

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee due in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: Apr. 8, 2003

  
Anthony H. Azure  
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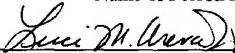
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